

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 11, 13, 14 and 17-21 are currently pending in the application. Claims 11-13 stand rejected. Claims 11 and 17-19 have been amended. Claims 12, 15 and 16 have been cancelled. All amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendments. Specifically, the amendment to claim 11 is supported by the specification at, for instance, pages 9-12, Examples 1-4. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Interview

Applicants and Applicants' representatives thank the Examiner for extending the courtesy of an interview on or about the week of January 21, 2008. Briefly, during the interview, all issues barring allowance of the present claims were discussed. Particularly, a set of claim amendments proposed by Applicants were reviewed by the Examiner and discussed. The Examiner indicated agreement that if the proposed amendments to the claims were submitted, they would address all outstanding rejections and place the claims in condition for allowance because the claims are now directed to encompass Examples 1-4, provided at pages 9-12 of the present specification. Therefore, pursuant thereto, Applicants submit herein the proposed claim amendments for entry into the record and consideration by the Examiner. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that their prior response of December 13, 2007, in addition to the present response, adequately address all outstanding rejections set forth in the Office Action of June 13, 2007. All comments and amendments presented in Applicants' prior response of December 13, 2007 are hereby incorporated by reference to address the outstanding rejections. Applicants understand that their prior amendments will first be entered into the record. Following entry of the prior amendment, the present Supplemental Amendment will also be entered into the record. According to the Examiner, these amendments are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments, please contact Thomas J. Siepmann, Ph.D., Registration No 57,374, at the offices of Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch, LLP.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: January 30, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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